

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for removing solvent residue from a bed of biomass, comprising:

an extraction vessel for containing biomass, that permits a solvent or a solvent mixture to contact biomass therein to effect extraction;

a source of steam, selectively connectable to supply steam to biomass in the extraction vessel;

a separator for separating steam, that has contacted biomass in the extraction vessel, and solvent entrained therewith; ~~and~~

a delivery line for steam/solvent selectively interconnectable between the extraction vessel and the separator to permit passage of steam and solvent entrained therewith to the separator; and

the separator including an outlet, the outlet being operatively connected to a condenser to condense the steam after removal of the solvent therefrom by means of the separator.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the source of steam supplies steam at atmospheric pressure.

3. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the source of steam supplies steam at super-atmospheric pressure.

4. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the separator is or includes an adsorbent material for removing solvent entrained with the steam.

5. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the separator is or includes an adsorbent material for removing solvent entrained with the steam; and wherein the adsorbent material is or includes activated carbon.

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the separator is or includes an adsorbent material for removing solvent entrained with the steam; and wherein the separator includes an inlet for receiving steam and solvent from the extraction vessel ~~and an outlet, the outlet being operatively connected to a condenser to condense the steam after removal of the solvent therefrom by means of the separator.~~

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the extraction vessel is a cylindrical chamber closed at either end and having an inlet at one end and an outlet at its other end, the hollow interior of the chamber being for containing biomass, the inlet being selectively connectable to a source of solvent and a

source of steam; and the outlet being selectively connectable as part of a circuit for recovering biomass extract; to a vacuum; or to the said separator.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the extraction vessel is a cylindrical chamber closed at either end and having an inlet at one end and an outlet at its other end, the hollow interior of the chamber being for containing biomass, the inlet being selectively connectable to a source of solvent and a source of steam; and the outlet being selectively connectable as part of a circuit for recovering biomass extract; to a vacuum; or to the said separator; and wherein the extraction vessel is in use vertical, with the inlet at its lower end and the outlet at its upper end.

10. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the extraction vessel contains a packed bed of biomass.

11. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the extraction vessel contains a packed bed of biomass; and wherein the packed bed of biomass occupies substantially the entire cross-section of at least a portion of the extraction vessel.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 including a

steam condenser jacket around at least part of the extraction vessel.

13. (Original) Apparatus according to Claim 1 including thermal insulation for the extraction vessel.

14-23 (Cancelled)